

# INVESTMENT POLICY

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## **I. Delegation of Authority**

The State Treasurer is an executive officer of the state, as established by the Constitution of the State of Washington (Article III, Section 1), and “will perform such duties as will be prescribed by law” (Article III, Section 19).

As prescribed by the Revised Code of Washington (RCW), “The legislature finds and declares that the public interest is found in providing maximum prudent investment of surplus funds, thereby reducing the need for additional taxation. The legislature also recognizes that not all political subdivisions are able to maximize the return on their temporary surplus funds. The legislature therefore provides in this chapter a mechanism whereby political subdivisions may, at their option, utilize the resources of the Office of the State Treasurer (OST) to maximize the potential surplus funds while ensuring the safety of public funds” (RCW 43.250.010).

To “ensure effective cash management of public funds,” (RCW 43.08.015) the State Treasurer may designate investment officers who will have the authority to perform the duties of the state treasurer. A list of individuals authorized to conduct trades for the portfolio can be found in Appendix I of this policy, which will be modified, as necessary, to reflect personnel changes.

## **II. Identification of Funds**

This policy applies to all public funds on deposit with the Local Government Investment Pool (LGIP) as defined by RCW 43.250.020.

## **III. Objectives**

The LGIP is comparable to a Rule 2a-7 money market fund recognized by the Securities and Exchange Commission (17CFR.270.2a-7). Rule 2a-7 funds are limited to high quality obligations with limited maximum and average maturities, the effect of which is to minimize both market and credit risk.

The objectives of the State Treasurer's investment practices for the LGIP, in priority order, will be: safety, liquidity, and return on investment. To provide for the safety and liquidity of funds deposited in the LGIP, the state treasurer and designated investment officers shall:

- adhere to all restrictions on the investment of funds established by law and by this policy;
- limit the purchase of investments in securities so that the average maturity of the portfolio does not exceed 90 days;
- limit the purchase of investments to securities that have a maximum maturity of 397 days, except securities used as collateral in repurchase agreements;
- limit the purchase of investments in securities other than those issued by the U.S. government or its agencies; and,
- prepare regular reports of portfolio activity.

The primary objective of safety will be measured in cash, as opposed to accounting terms, where different, and in terms of the portfolio as a whole, as opposed to the terms of any individual transaction. This means, for example, that a single transaction that generated an accounting loss but actually increased the amount of cash received in the portfolio would be considered to have increased capital, and not decreased it.

Within the restrictions necessary to ensure the safety and liquidity of funds, the investment portfolio of the LGIP will be structured to attain a market rate of return throughout an economic cycle.

#### **IV. Standards of Care**

***Prudence.*** The State Treasurer and authorized investment officers will perform their duties in a manner consistent with the standard of a "prudent person," as defined by RCW 43.250.040:

"In investing and reinvesting moneys in the public funds investment account and in acquiring, retaining, managing, and disposing of investments of the investment pool, there shall be exercised the judgment and care under the circumstances then prevailing which persons of prudence, discretion, and intelligence exercise in the management of their own affairs, not in regard to speculation but in regard to the permanent disposition of the funds considering the probable income as well as the probable safety of the capital."

Authorized investment officers acting in accordance with this policy and exercising due diligence shall be relieved of personal responsibility for credit and market risks encountered in the performance of their investment duties. Due diligence requires timely reporting of material deviation from expectations and such other actions to control adverse developments as may be possible in consideration of the particular circumstances and within other provisions of this policy.

***Ethics and Conflicts of Interest.*** The State Treasurer, assistant treasurer, and authorized investment officers will adhere to standards of conduct as stipulated by the following:

- Public Disclosure Act, RCW 42.16;
- Ethics in Public Service Act, RCW 42.52 and section 292-110-010 Washington Administrative Code; and,
- Standards of Conduct for Executive Branch Employees, Executive Order 93-02.

All authorized investment officers will file personal financial disclosure forms with the Public Disclosure Commission consistent with the provisions of RCW 42.17.

***Authorized Financial Dealers and Institutions.*** The State Treasurer will maintain a list of broker/dealers and financial institutions authorized to provide investment services to the state. Authorized broker/dealers and financial institutions will be limited to those that meet one or more of the following:

- financial institutions approved by the Washington Public Deposit Protection Commission (RCW 39.58); or,
- primary dealers recognized by the Federal Reserve Bank; or,
- non-primary dealers qualified under U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission Rule 15C3-1, the Uniform Net Capital Rule, and a certified member of the National Association of Securities Dealers.

Each authorized dealer or institution will regularly submit annual reports, including audited financial statements, and other information as determined by the State Treasurer.

## **V. Eligible Investments**

Eligible investments are only those securities and deposits authorized by statute. (RCW 39.58, 39.59, and 43.84.080) Eligible investments include:

- obligations of the U.S. government;
- obligations of U.S. government agencies, or of corporations wholly owned by the U.S. government;
- obligations of government-sponsored corporations which are, or may become, eligible as collateral for advances to member banks as determined by the board of governors of the Federal Reserve;
- banker's acceptances purchased on the secondary market rated with the highest short-term credit rating of any two Nationally Recognized Statistical Rating Organizations (NRSROs), at the time of purchase. If the bankers acceptance is rated by more than two NRSROs, it must have the highest rating from all of the organizations;
- commercial paper, provided that the OST adheres with policies and procedures of the State Investment Board regarding commercial paper (RCW 43.84.080(7));
- certificates of deposit with financial institutions qualified by the Washington Public Deposit Protection Commission; and,

- obligations of the state of Washington or its political subdivisions.

## **VI. Investment Restrictions**

The following are minimum investment restrictions under this formal investment policy and there may be separate guidelines containing additional, more restrictive limitations for certain investment instruments.

To provide for the safety and liquidity of LGIP funds, the investment portfolio will be subject to the following restrictions:

- the weighted average maturity of the portfolio will not exceed 90 days. For the purposes of calculation of average daily maturity, the reset date of any floating rate notes will be the maturity date, provided that on any reset date the market value can reasonably be expected to approximate the par value;
- the maximum maturity of any security will not exceed 397 days, except securities used as collateral in repurchase agreements; and,
- the allocation to investments subject to high price sensitivity or reduced marketability will not exceed 10% of the daily portfolio balance at amortized cost. For the purposes of this policy, investments subject to high price sensitivity or reduced marketability will be defined as structured notes, with the exception of floating rate notes which may be reasonably expected to reset at or near par on their reset dates. A structured note is a debt security whose cash flow characteristics (coupon rate, redemption amount, or stated maturity) depend on one or more indices and which may have embedded forwards or options. Structured notes whose cash flows can no longer fluctuate would not count against the 10 % allocation.

Investments in non-government securities will not exceed the following percentages of the total daily portfolio balance at amortized cost:

Bankers Acceptances	20%
Commercial Paper	25%
Certificates of Deposit	10%

The aggregate amount for Commercial Paper and Bankers Acceptances will not exceed 35% of the portfolio. Additionally, individual issuers of commercial paper or bankers acceptances will be limited to no more than 5% of the portfolio.

The investments of cash collateral and securities accepted as collateral by a securities lending agent are subject to the restrictions and limits of sections V and VI of this policy. Percentage limitations of the portfolio will not increase as a result of investments made by a securities lending agent, or as the result of reverse repurchase agreements.

Repurchase and reverse repurchase agreements will be subject to the following additional restrictions:

- transactions will be conducted only with primary dealers, the state's bank of record, or master custodial bank, and under the terms of a written master repurchase agreement approved by the Public Securities Association;
- repurchase agreements with any single primary dealer or financial institution will not exceed 20% of the portfolio;
- repurchase agreements with any single primary dealer or financial institution with a maturity date past the next business day will not exceed 10% of the total portfolio;
- the maximum term of repurchase agreements will be 180 days;
- the share of the portfolio allocated to repurchase agreements with maturities beyond 30 days will not exceed 30% of the total portfolio;
- the maximum term of reverse repurchase agreements will be 90 days;
- the maximum portion of the portfolio allocated to reverse repurchase agreements or engaged in a securities lending program will not exceed 30% of the total portfolio; and,
- reinvestment of the proceeds from a reverse repurchase agreement may have a maximum maturity of no longer than 14 days past the term of the agreement.

Securities accepted as collateral for repurchase agreements will be subject to the following additional restrictions:

- securities delivered as collateral for a repurchase agreement with a maturity date longer than seven days will be priced at least weekly;
- all collateral substitutions will be approved by the OST before the existing collateral is released to the broker/dealer;
- collateral for treasury, agency and money market securities will be priced at 102% of market value, plus accrued income;
- collateral for mortgage-backed repurchase agreements with a maturity date longer than seven days will be priced at 105% of market value, plus accrued income;
- collateralized mortgage obligation (CMO) repurchase agreement collateral must pass the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council (FFIEC) test, or will not exceed a volatility rating of V-5 by Fitch Investor Services, or a similar rating of a nationally recognized rating agency; and,
- only securities authorized in statute for the investment of public funds will be accepted as collateral.

Additional operating guidelines will provide details relating to the frequency of collateral pricing, collateral substitutions, and margin calls.

## VII. Professional Services

The State Treasurer may contract for professional services as necessary for the efficient management of investments.

### *Appointment of Master Custodian*

The State Treasurer may select one or more firms to provide the state with master custodial services. Master custodial services will include, but not be limited to:

- executing transactions involving all securities held in custody, including on-line security clearing, settlement of securities on a delivery-versus-payment basis, and settlement of physically-held securities;
- accounting for all transactions in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and requirements of the state;
- providing regular reports on the activity and value of the securities in custody; and,
- providing for the safekeeping of all documents and financial instruments physically held in custody.

### *Appointment of Securities Lending Agent*

The State Treasurer may select one or more firms to provide securities lending management services. Securities lending services will include, but not be limited to:

- ensuring all loans of coupon-bearing securities are supported by collateral valued at not less than 102% of market value of the securities, including accrued income;
- ensuring all loans of non coupon-bearing securities supported by cash collateral, shall not be valued at less than 102% of market value, but not to exceed par;
- ensuring all loans of non coupon-bearing securities supported by non-cash collateral, shall not be valued at less than 102% of market value;
- ensuring the average maturity of the securities purchased are for 14 days or less;
- ensuring that the investment of cash collateral be only in securities authorized in this policy, and that the restrictions on investments found in sections V and VI of this policy also apply to investments made by a securities lending agent;
- providing next day liquidity for all securities on loan; and,
- providing monthly accounting, performance, compliance, and management reports.

The services of a master custodian and securities lending agent will be obtained through an evaluation of competitive proposals submitted in response to a regularly issued request for proposals.

Securities purchased by the office are to be held by the master custodian, acting as an independent third party, in its safekeeping or trust department.

Collateral is to be similarly held or held by an independent third party with whom the office has a current master repurchase agreement.

All securities transactions are to be conducted on a delivery-versus-payment (DVP) basis only, and a trade confirm/safekeeping receipt is to be provided to the Treasurer's Office.

## **VIII. Advisory Committee**

The State Treasurer created the LGIP Advisory Committee to provide advice on the operation of the pool. Of the twelve committee members, all of whom are active LGIP participants, eight members are appointed by participant associations, and four members are appointed by the State Treasurer. The LGIP Advisory Committee will meet at least quarterly; however, meetings may also be called at the discretion of the State Treasurer.

## **IX. Internal Controls**

The State Treasurer will maintain internal controls to protect against the loss of public funds arising from negligence, theft or misuse. These controls will include, but not be limited to:

- the use of third party custody and safekeeping;
- the execution of all securities transactions on a delivery versus payment basis;
- the clear delegation of investment authority;
- the separation of transaction authority from record keeping;
- the use of objective criteria in selecting financial institutions and dealers authorized to provide investment services to the state; and,
- the use of objective criteria in awarding investment purchases and sales to authorized financial institutions and dealers.

Daily reports monitoring investment operations to ensure compliance with the terms of this policy will be produced and provided to staff responsible for oversight of the LGIP.

## **X. External Controls**

As prescribed by RCW 43.09.050, the state auditor will "audit the accounts" and "inspect the books" of the State Treasurer to determine the compliance of investment activities with state statutes and this policy. In addition, the LGIP will contract, through the state auditor's office, for an outside independent audit of LGIP financial statements.

The market value of the portfolio will be calculated monthly by the master custodian or by an independent pricing service under contract with the State Treasurer's Office.

This policy will be reviewed/revised at least annually. The State Treasurer will formally approve any changes to this policy after consultation with the LGIP Advisory Committee.

## **XI. Reporting**

In accordance with Washington Administrative Code 210-01-110, each pool participant will be provided a monthly statement of account. In accordance with RCW 43.250.080, the State Treasurer will submit an annual summary of LGIP activity to the governor, the state auditor, and the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee.

The State Treasurer will prepare semi-annual reports summarizing investment activity and performance of the portfolio. Reports will be distributed to state officials and agencies as appropriate and will be readily available upon request. The reports will include:

- purchases and sales of investments;
- investment income received;
- realized securities gains and losses;
- weighted average maturity of the portfolio;
- portfolio balances, stated at both amortized cost and market value;
- portfolio yields; and,
- portfolio performance compared to the IBC Donoghue Government Only/Institutional Only Index to be used as a benchmark.

Results comparing LGIP performance to the benchmark will be provided to LGIP participants at least quarterly.

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Approved by Michael J. Murphy, State Treasurer

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Date

Effective Date: June 16, 2000



## **Appendix I**

Individuals authorized to conduct trades for the Local Government Investment Pool portfolio are as follows:

Douglas D. Extine, Deputy Treasurer

Jill M. Gravatt, Investment Officer

Ferdinand Pascual, Investment Officer

Lisa M. Hennessy, Investment Officer